THREE TYPES OF SOFTWARE DISKS

Computers cannot do anything by themselves. They have to be told what to do and how to do it. They have to be given very special instructions. These instructions are called *software*.

Software has been stored on many different devices throughout history — from punched cards to diskettes (or disks). Many modern software devices are in the form of disks. Below are three types of disks that are used today. How many have you used?

Gregory Edwards/International Stock Photography

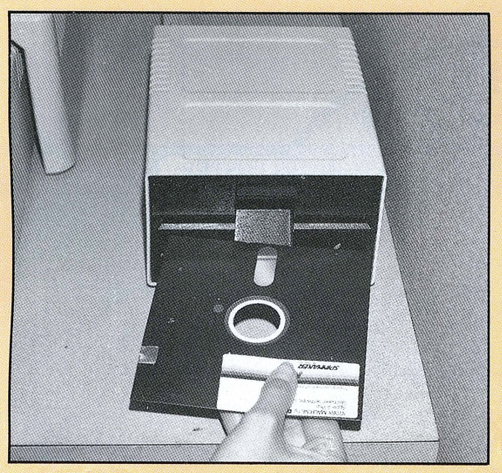
Hard Disk Drive

Invented: 1960s

Hard Disk

Control Data Corp.

A hard disk is a round, flat piece of metal. It is about the size of a 33 1/3 RPM phonograph record. Several hard disks are often stacked to form a disk pack like the one in the picture at left. As many as 11 disks may be in a pack. The packs are used in a large disk drive that is connected to a computer. Some hard disk drives do not use disk packs. Instead, a single hard disk is built into the drive.

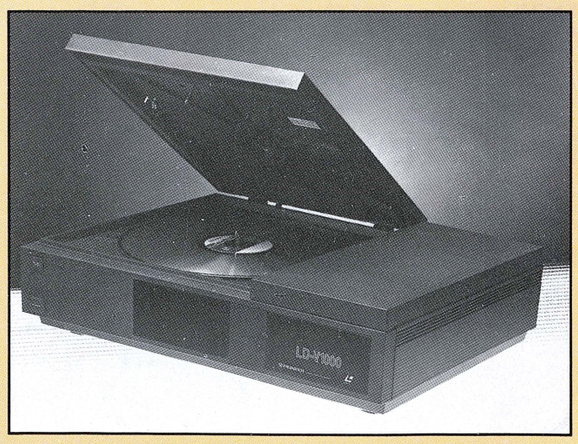


Floppy Disk Drive

Invented: 1970s

Floppy Disk

Like a hard disk, a floppy disk is flat and round. However, it is made of plastic instead of metal. A floppy disk is much smaller than a hard disk and is covered with a square paper jacket to help protect it. It's called "floppy" because you can bend it back and forth (but don't try this; you might harm the disk). It runs on a floppy disk drive that is hooked up to a computer.



Laser Videodisc Player

Invented: 1980s

Laser Videodisc

A laser videodisc is a flat, round piece of plastic that is about the size of a 33 1/3 RPM record. It can store pictures that show motion, much like a video cassette tape stores movies. Like a video tape, a laser videodisc can also store sound and written text. A single disc can hold all the words contained in 170,000 books. A laser videodisc runs on a laser videodisc player.

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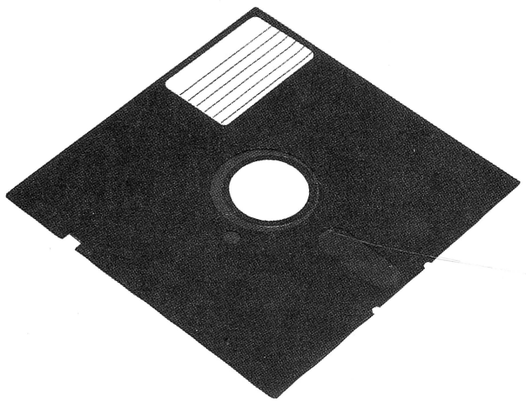
NAME THE SOFTWARE DEVICES

DIRECTIONS: Look at the software devices below. Write the name of each under its picture. Use the front of the poster for help.

_____

_____

_____



_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

WORD BOX
Floppy Disk
Hard Disk
Videodisc

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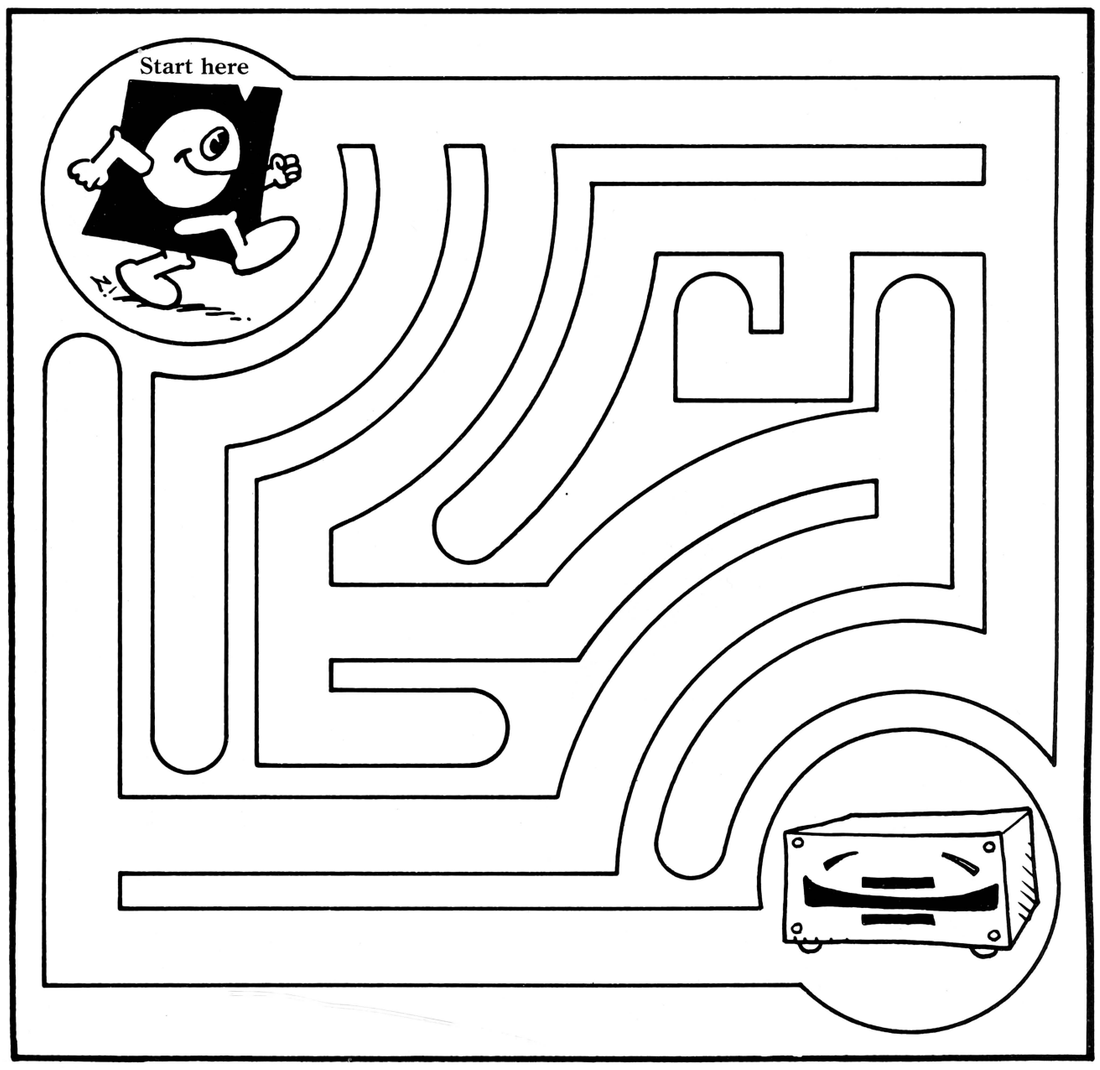
FLOPPY DISK MAZE

DIRECTIONS: Look at the maze below. Color in the path that takes the floppy disk to its disk drive.



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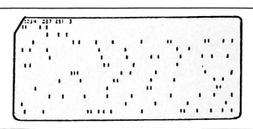
HISTORY OF SOFTWARE DEVICES

DIRECTIONS: Below is a list of some of the devices that store software. Use references to complete the information categories on each device. The first is done for you.

SOFTWARE DEVICE	APPROX. DATE INVENTED	A COMPUTER THAT HAS USED IT	PICTURE
PUNCHED CARD	1800s	Jacquard's Loom	
PAPER TAPE			
MAGNETIC TAPE REEL			
CASSETTE TAPE			
HARD DISK			
FLOPPY DISK			
LASER VIDEODISC			

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DISK RIDDLE

DIRECTIONS: Each square in the grid below contains a word. If you put the words in the correct order, they will make up a riddle about disks.

Here is how to get the words in the right order:

1. Look at the blanks below the grid. Under each blank, find a pair of numbers. The numbers tell you which square contains the word for that blank.
2. Under the first blank is 2,1. To get to square 2,1, go to the starting arrow. Move 2 squares *across*; then move 1 square *down*.
3. This square says "WHY." "WHY" is the first word of the joke. Write the word "WHY" in the first blank.
4. Use the numbers under the next blank to find the next word of the joke, and so on.

	1	2	3	4
1	FLOPPY	WHY	SAVE	ARE
2	GOOD	COLLECTORS?	LIKE	TO
3	DISKS	BECAUSE	THINGS.	THEY

Write the words to the riddle in these blanks.

_____	_____	_____
2,1	**4,1**	**1,1**
_____	_____	_____
1,3	**1,2**	**2,2**
_____	_____	_____
2,3	**4,3**	**3,2**
_____	_____	_____
4,2	**3,1**	**3,3**

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